[XXXVth YEAR.] THE [No. 1728.]

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1780.

For the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

NUMBER XXVIII.

FRANCE was first moved with the evils of the war, and, in 1758, she acquainted England with her pacific intentions, by the minister of Denmark; but her adversary had conceived hopes proportionable to her success, and rejected all accommodation. When, the following year, in concert with the king of Prussia, she sent, to the ministers of France, of Vienna, and of Russia, at the Hague, a declaration, by which she seemed to desire the opening of a congress to treat of peace; candour must confess, that it was with a view to relieve herself from the charge of obstinacy, in continuing the war. Peace was not seriously thought of until 1761. France made a declaration the 28th of March, which was sent to the court of London, and by which it was proposed to open a congress. The duke de Choiseul addressed a particular memorial to the minister of England, and proposed to institute a particular negotiation to settle the debates that had arisen between France and that kingdom, relative to their possessions in North-America, and which were the ground of the war.

An answer was remitted to this memorial, and articles of accommodation began to be sketched out by both courts. Several memorials passed between them, in which great condescension, and an anxious desire of peace, on the part of France, were extremely visible. The principal difficulty in the way at present took its rise from a demand of the court of Britain, that France should not introduce the disputes between Spain and Britain, relative to the fisheries of Newfoundland, or the British establishments on the bay of Honduras, or expect that these should be included in the terms of a pacification. It would be difficult, in this case, to justify the proceeding of the English court. There was no reason that this court should be offended with the proposal that the court of Madrid should be a guarantee of the treaty. And still less reason was there to look upon it as a proof of the bad faith of France, that she was willing to prevent a rupture between Spain, who was her ally, and the court of England. If, on the contrary, she had not really desired a lasting peace, is it not evident, that so far from being willing to see accommodated the differences between these powers, she would have chosen that they should remain a seed of division, for a future day, when she might have it in her power to renew the war and carry it on with greater advantage than at present?

If France had been in a situation to give laws to her enemies, it might have been a reproach against her, that she abused her advantages in favour of an ally, and embarrassed the negotiation by things foreign to the peace. But even in this case, she would only have consulted the good of mankind, and would have followed the dictates of a just foresight and clear policy. Why should the court of England take it amiss, that France was willing to institute a negotiation in favour of Spain, seeing she was not in a situation to dictate imperiously what should be the terms? It must be confessed, that in our prosperity we were not able to resist the vices which accompany it. An unlimited ambition is, since the birth of society, the rock on which the strength of mighty kingdoms and great states breaks itself. Without doubt England was willing, that after an accommodation with France, the debates with Spain should be left, which she would afterwards settle to her own satisfaction, having then to do but with one power, who without allies, was weak, and unable to defend herself.

It will not be necessary here to make mention of the various proposals, and advances on the part of the one kingdom, and the obstinacy and haughtiness inspired by continual success on the part of the other. It was still demanded on the part of England, that France should neglect the interests of her ally in the accommodation. It must be confessed, that it was above the power of human wisdom to reconcile the two nations on this important point. It is a situation the most destructive to which a state of the first rank can be reduced by the evils of war, to see herself constrained to destroy the credit of her friendship, in abandoning her allies. What would Europe have said, if England, in the midst of her success, had been capable of betraying the confidence of her allies? The conquests, and vast dominions which she acquired in America, would not have indemnified her for the hatred and contempt which a conduct of this nature must have inspired. A people may lose battles, and cede provinces, without weakening themselves; but honour is the firmest, or rather the only rampart of states. If the evils consequent on war could authorise the violation of engagements, what would become of the religion of treaties? What profit would be drawn from alliances? These are contracted with a view to gain friends, who may assist in our adverse state of affairs. How then shall adversity be an excuse for breaking off from such engagements? Nevertheless the court of England still continued to insist upon it; and the consequence was a more close union between the branches of the house of Bourbon in the family compact, which was entered into August 14, 1761.

The war, from this time was carried on by the joint forces of France and Spain, and if circumstances favourable to the tranquility of Europe had not permitted, that a negotiation should once more be set on foot, it is probable that England, embarrassed with the friendship and protection of Portugal, would have found in her losses, in support of this ally a counter-balance for her successes elsewhere. But a negotiation was again set on foot in 1762; of which what had been agreed upon in the former stipulations should serve as a basis. Pitt was no longer at the head of the British governments. His name will be famous and respected in every nation of Europe while the world lasts. Nevertheless, moderation and the love of peace were not his qualities; and though he disapproved of the peace which was concluded under his successor*, yet posterity will do this successor, bad as he is, the justice to say, that in this instance he did what was reasonable, and for the real interests of the contending nations. The treaty of Paris put an end to the evils of war, February 10, 1763.

The view we have taken of the counsels of Europe, for the last and the present centuries, in which England has had a principal share, will serve to give a just idea of the character and conduct of those powers whom we have been heretofore led to consider as the aggressors in all wars. We ourselves having felt the restless spirit of the British nation, and the ambition of her princes, in their views of extensive dominion, are in a disposition to learn the truth. Perhaps we shall find, looking back to the reign of the first Edward, that there never has been a more injured people than the French nation; liable continually to the inroads of those fierce islanders whose possessions on the continent until the reign of Henry VII, gave them an easy access to the territories of their more peaceful neighbour, and whose situation within the four seas, rendered reprisals, at all times, extremely difficult. With regard to the late princes, and especially the Georges, whom we have been heretofore led to consider as the great guardians of the protestant succession, and of liberty in England, we shall find that the support of the former was indirect and unintended, and that the latter owes little to them. On the contrary, it has been the invariable system of every one of the Hanover princes, to turn to advantage the groundless fears of the people relative to a popish succession, and, under pretence of providing against it, to encroach on those liberties which by free states have been deemed invaluable. Nothing new of this nature being left to be attempted in England, we on this continent have felt the encreased movement of that ambition, and now I presume, we will not be averse from believing what Mrs. Macauly has told us in her late letters on the history of England, and with which I shall conclude these observations. Speaking of James I, and the ridiculous and over-cautious timidity of that prince, yet, considering the ruinous system which has followed down to the present era of the war against America, she cannot help expressing a wish, "that the successors of this so-

* Bute.

lomon of the English nation had possessed the pacific disposition of their great founder."

THE HONEST POLITICIAN.

For the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

HAVING proved, I hope, to the entire conviction of my readers, the injustice of confiscating *private* British property in this state, within our power; and that the law or practice of civilised nations will not justify the confiscation of the property of the *innocent and inoffensive* subjects of Great-Britain; and having clearly refuted the principle, on which the delegates originated their bill for confiscation, "that *all* British subjects, by the declaration of independence, became *aliens* to this state;" and having evinced, by the common law of England (by which only the question, what British subjects are aliens to this country, can be ascertained and determined) that "all the British and Americans, born *before* the declaration of independence, are *not aliens*, either in Great-Britain or in this state, but that they may inherit in the several countries, as the *natural-born subjects* of *both*, and may sue in the respective courts of either to recover their debts or *lands*, if withheld from them; and that only those born in the respective countries *since* the declaration of independence, are aliens in the respective nations; I shall proceed to make such further remarks and observations as appear to me pertinent to the subject, and to shew the impolicy and imprudence of the leading members of the house of delegates, in urging the senate to give their assent to an act so manifestly unjust, contrary to the law of nations, our common law, and the principles of our constitution.

I think it was the duty of our general assembly to comply with the requisition of congress; to raise the 14,220,000 dollars in nine months, and to make the monthly payment of 1,580,000 dollars from the last of this month until the first of October inclusive. I esteem a requisition of congress as binding and obligatory on all the states in the union. Congress alone is, and ought to be the judge of the number of men, or the sums of money, necessary to carry on the war. If one state may refuse or delay to raise its proportion of the supplies required, another may do the same, and by such conduct endanger the safety of the whole. In truth, the state which omits, from any cause, but inability, breaks its public faith and plighted honour. I am far from thinking it was imprudent or impracticable to raise the whole sum by a tax and assessment on property; I conceive it would have been wise in our delegates to have laid the tax, and that the people could have paid it with great ease and convenience. I agree with the Senator, who hath expressed himself with great modesty, that it does not become an individual to *determine* this question, contrary to the assertion of the delegates, but yet I hope, one of the people, who is to pay his proportion of the tax, may be indulged to differ from them in sentiment, and to assign his reasons for his opinion. There ever has been, and always will be a small part of the community, to whom taxes will be disagreeable and burthensome. The true question is, whether the people, in general, are not in circumstances to pay a tax sufficient to raise the sum required by congress. The house of delegates declared, "they were under the strongest impressions of the propriety, the necessity of raising the sum required by congress; to prevent further emissions; to support the credit and value of our paper money; and to enable congress to carry on the war;" and they *seemed* to be apprehensive of great and fatal consequences, if the supplies were not raised. Though I see but little force in any of the reasons urged by the delegates, except the last (to enable congress to defray the current expences of the war) yet as they appeared [illegible] and substantial to them, it ought to have influenced them the more to exert their every endeavour to raise the money.

The delegates allege that the monthly tax, to raise our whole quota of 14,220,000 dollars, would be £. 3 on every £. 100 of property; that this in the nine months would be £. 27; and that the expences of our government, for the current year, would require a further tax of 30s on every £. 100. The whole tax therefore in the year would

be £. 28 10 *nominal money* on every £. 100 of *nominal property*.—This sum though *nominally* great, is really but a trifle. In the words of the Senate, " we pay our taxes, not on the *present nominal* value of our property, but on its *old* value." That is, if a man has a ton of bar iron, which will sell for £. 1500 continental, he only pays on £. 30; if he has a negro, which would sell for £ 3750, he only pays on £. 75; in the same manner, and by the same rule, he pays on land, continental money, or any other property. The *whole* tax in the *whole year* therefore, of £. 28 10 *nominal* money, on the same principle and scale, will be about 11/4½ *real money*, for every £. 100 of *actual* property. What an enormous sum! But the delegates say they cannot load their constituents with such a heavy tax, and that they must sell *part* of their property to raise it. I guess they mean watermelons, cabbages, eggs, and the like. Risum teneatis! Who can refrain from laughter? I believe under the old government the yearly tax was from 40/ to 12/ 6 per poll. The truth probably is, that the confiscation of British property was a favourite object with the leading members of the house of delegates. To carry this point every argument was to be urged, and every plausible pretence to be alleged. Justice, policy, and necessity, were the triumvirate drawn forth, in phalanx, to beat down all opposition. Those who had courage enough to differ in sentiment, and to speak openly their opinion, were aspersed as disaffected to our glorious revolution; and it is said, in private, branded by the odious epithet of tories, an appellation given, by some men, to every one who differs from them in opinion. A union too was formed as unexpected as unaccountable. In a moment all former animosity was forgotten. Aiming at one point, men discordant in their natures, and ever before jarring on public questions, became not only united but confidential, in the prosecution of the point, to carry which they had confederated together. The circumstances are suspicious. The Senator justly observes, " that a discerning people will not place a blind and implicit confidence in their representatives; they will not rely on mere and plausible professions, but they will search narrowly into the true and secret springs of the public councils, and not always content themselves with the ostensible and assigned motives for the conduct of their representatives. *Particular circumstances*, and *particular characters*,* will generally furnish the people, if they will exercise their good sense, with a clue to discover the main and innermost spring of public measures." Every wise man will measure the integrity of men by their conduct, and not by their professions. When I consider *circumstances* and *characters*; the present crisis of speculation; what would, at this time, be the probable views of men engaged in that infamous traffic; and *what characters* might benefit themselves, or their connections or friends, by a confiscation and *immediate* sale of British property; I fear the senate had some reason for their remarkable intimation, " that it could not be the wish or desire" of the house of delegates " to raise great emoluments to a *few* individuals, at a certain and heavy loss to the public." And I now begin to think, with the Senator, that " the message of the delegates was a laboured apology for engrossers and speculators." The unanimity of the delegates, under all circumstances, gives rather suspicion than weight to their resolutions. I am informed it was publicly laid, by the president of the Senate, that some eight or ten of the members, who voted for the bill, had given their public voice contrary to their private judgment and opinion.

If the delegates should persevere in their opinion, and at the next session refuse to raise our whole quota, by a tax on property, yet surely they may raise 3,220,000 dollars by the several modes pointed out by the Senator, which would be far preferable to their favourite plan of confiscation; which, when explained and understood, will certainly cause heats and divisions among our people. To the several objects of taxation recommended by the Senator, I would propose to add, a heavy tax on speculators, and all species of gaming. In the state of New-York, every speculator, I am informed, is obliged to pay a certain sum to the public. Such a tax would answer two valuable purposes; the public would thereby collect part of their ill-gotten pelf, and every one of those miscreants would be known, and I guess some great ones, not now suspected, would, by such mode be discovered to their much injured countrymen.

The proposition of the Senator " to call on the public debtors to the loan-office who have paid off their bonds to give new obligations for the balances, after deducting from the original debt the payments made in a depreciated currency, according to the exchange at the respective times of payment," demands the warmest thanks of every honest public spirited man among us. Those who have been honest enough *not* to pay their debt, should be obliged to remain the debtors of the public, and to pay the interest annually according to the depreciation. I have often in private contemplated this subject, but the honour of first publicly avowing the opinion, was reserved for the Senator. I applaud his resolution and firmness in opposing the popular opinion in favour of confiscation, but for this last declaration, I would, if my poor voice could prevail, have a statue erected to his memory. If the interest would annually produce above £. 80,000, what a capital gross sum would be received for the money already paid in? His calculation of exchange at 1500 per cent. is a great deal too low, it is, at this day, 6000 per cent, i. e. a bill of exchange for £. 100 sterling, will sell for £. 6000 continental. Let us consider what sum would still be due to the public, (or what sum the public would have to receive if thought proper) on the bonds already discharged and cancelled; on the supposition that £. 100,000 sterling have been paid into the loan-office. I will suppose the depreciation, on an average, at the different times of payment, was 750 per cent. which is full low. The debtors for the £. 100,000 sterling discharged it at the exchange of 166⅔ per cent. and consequently paid into the office £. 166,666 13 4 continental money; this sum at 750 exchange would in justice only have paid £. 22,222 4 5 sterling, and of consequence there ought now to be due to the public £. 77,777 15 7 sterling. The annual four per cent. interest on this sum would be £. 3,111 2 3 sterling which if paid (as justice requires) at the present depreciation of 6000 per cent. will amount to £. 186,666 15, and if the public would require payment of the principal (£. 77,777 15 7 sterling) at the same exchange, it would produce £. 4,666,666 15 *, a sum sufficient to pay (within a trifle) one half of the 25,000,000 of dollars, stated by the house of delegates to be our proportion of the continental debt. By this scheme of the Senator's, founded on the purest principles of justice and the most disinterested regard to the public interest, how vast a sum would accrue to the public treasury? Shall particular interests, opposed to this plan, come in competition with the public good? It cannot be denied, that every public debtor, who discharged £. 100 sterling with £. 166 13 4 continental, when the exchange was at 750, pocketed the difference (or in other words, harsh but true, robbed the public) of £. 583 6 8. Justice demands that he should be obliged to refund the difference, and I hope our delegates, our trustees and guardians of our purses, will not see us plundered by a few individuals; for I am unwilling to suppose, with the Senate, " that our representatives would wish or desire to raise great emoluments to a few" dishonest debtors, " at a certain and heavy loss to the public." The same justice which requires the debtors of the public to give new bonds, would also oblige *private* debtors, who have taken a dishonest advantage of our tender law, † to give fresh bonds for their debts. The compulsion on *public* debtors to render justice to the public, would lay a foundation to compel *private* debtors to settle and pay their debts according to the depreciation at the time of payment. Every man must think the plan of the Senator right and just in the case of the public, and every member of the assembly voting to establish this mode on behalf of the public, cannot " consistently, or on rational principles," oppose the same rule in the case of private creditors.

I am inclined to think, that the plan of the Senator, and his principles of justice, if enlarged, would be the wisest and best mode congress could adopt, after the conclusion of the war, to adjust and pay off the continental debt. The articles purchased in America to carry on the war have been purchased, on an average, at ten times their real and intrinsic value. The loans of continental currency obtained by congress, within the states, were not, on an average, of twenty fold the value expressed in the bills of credit borrowed. Let the principles of universal justice be the rule of conduct as well to public as private debtors, and also to public, and private creditors. * My plan would be too large for the limits of a newspaper, and therefore cannot at present be laid before the public. I hope the Senator will take the hint, and under his auspices it may be made worthy the notice and patronage of congress.

The impolicy and imprudence of the confederated popular leaders is very obvious. As wise politicians they ought to endeavour to avoid every cause of disunion. Our enemies hopes of success depend solely on divisions among ourselves. Their emissaries therefore will fan every spark of discontent, and blow it to a flame. It was weak and rash in the advocates for confiscation to expect to carry so important a measure without great opposition. Discord and confusion might have been expected from the attempt. If a regard to their characters could not deter, yet love and duty to their country ought to have restrained them. If they had reflected, but for a moment, and considered the *objects* of the bill, that is, whose estates would have been taken away by it, they would have discovered a most formidable opposition to their scheme. The five judicious and experienced members of the Senate, who rejected the bill †, might have induced a belief, that many others would embrace their opinion, and support their conduct. In my first paper I mentioned the two classes of men whose property the popular leaders intended to confiscate. 1. *Natives* of any of the British dominions, other than the colonies, now United States, who never came over to America and joined us in the war, or who have not been employed in our service. 2. Natives, or inhabitants of this or any other of the states, who had April 19, 1775, joined the enemy, or withdrawn from the continent, and went to Great-Britain, usually called American refugees. In the first class we may name Mr. Harford, the proprietary (whose estate seems to be the great object of the advocates for the measure) the late worthy governors, colonel Sharpe and Sir Robert Eden; the merchants, Hanbury, Russel, Buchanan, and Glassford; and the proprietors of the Principio and Kingsbury iron-works. There are many other merchants and private gentlemen in Great-Britain, who have estates in this country, not at present in my memory, whose names will be remembered by every intelligent reader. In the second class, we may recollect the hon. Robert Alexander, Esq; delegate to congress, the reverend Mr. Jonathan Boucher, the reverend Mr. Henry Addison, and Mr. Henry Riddle, Lloyd Dulany, Esq and his two nephews, and Mr. Stewart. There are many other absentees, clergymen and others, not at present in my recollection, but whose names will be remembered. I do not know the absentees from the eastern shore, but I have heard of several of consequence. How could the popular leaders expect to lay their hands on the property of even those I have enumerated, without a powerful

* *The confederates, or the quadruple alliance, H-y, C---s, L---b--y, and H-n-y, assisted by their allies, the agitators, S----g, B---f, M--k-n, St-v----n, B--n-i, and V---w. That the bad, rash, and violent Sempronius, should urge the confiscation, is not to be wondered at, but that the cool, prudent, and moderate Lucius, should embark with him and the other confederates, in such an act of injustice, is almost incredible.*

* *I have made the calculation only upon the principal sum of £. 77,777 15 7 sterling, which the public has been robbed of by the tender law, and receiving continental money into the loan office, in payment of bonds for gold and silver and bills of exchange lent, and which ought to have been paid in the same specie; but if the money had been kept on interest, as originally intended, and the borrowers not suffered to discharge either principal or interest, but in gold, silver, or bills of exchange, or the real difference of continental money, (of sixty for one) it would now amount, as the candid and disinterested Senator most justly observes, to an enormous sum, would effectually raise the value of our currency, lessen the price of produce, prevent the iniquitous sale of British property, and be a means of rendering of no effect the unjust tender law.*

† *I would not have the public imputte my warmth against the tender laws, or those who have discharged their debts under it, to interested views. I cannot be benefited in any degree by its repeal. I think it was originally passed on good but mistaken principles. Its real and professed object was to depreciate the currency. I think forty day's experience proves, that it depreciates our money, destroys the morals of our people, encourages fraud and ingratitude, and ruins many orphans and widows. I have reason to think it has made some (I thought) good whigs, to-*

riot, or it has so far affected their sentiments, as to make them speak, and in some instances, act, like tories.

* *One of my neighbours sold a quarter-master a horse, worth really but 20 pounds, in gold, for £. 1000 in bills of credit, and lent them to congress. Ought he to receive £. 600 sterling? Must the people be taxed to pay such a debt? Another of my neighbours borrowed £. 500 when the paper money was depreciated only four for one. Should he be enabled by law to pay it in a currency which is now depreciated 50 for one?*

† *For confiscation, B. T. E. Worthington, Richard Barnes, and Upton Sheredine, Esqrs. against it, the honourable Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Matthew Tilghman, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, William Hindman, and Joseph Sim, Esqrs.*

opposition? A little reflection would have discovered advocates in their favour, in every county. I am one, not from affection or interest, but because, as it has been clearly proved by the Senator, we cannot take their property without violating the principles of justice, our constitution, and our bill of rights, and the law of civilised nations. The ties of gratitude, honour, blood, and friendship, may induce others to give their opposition. The proprietary had great influence in this country, from the offices of profit and trust in his gift. Many of his officers and placemen have engaged in the war, and accepted places of honour and great trust under our present government; but how base would be their ingratitude, if they could with indifference behold his property wrested from him, to promote the designs and interests of a few individuals! Arguments presented themselves to save his property. He is an *infant*, he is an *innocent* subject of Great-Britain; and he is *not an alien*. His agent, the president of the Senate, may be well justified in his partiality to the old government, which he ever openly and candidly avowed. His affection, his attachment to the proprietor and his interests cannot be questioned. His negative to the bill therefore might have been expected; and his friends and connections, numerous and powerful, will support his conduct, and join in opposition to the measure.* "It always appeared to me an impropriety, that the agent of the proprietor should have any share in divesting [illegible] of his rights."† It has been said that he [illegible] as a Senator, on a stipulation, that compensation should be made to the proprietor for what necessity might oblige the people to take from him. There are many others, who have been raised to affluence and importance, by the bounty of Mr. Harford and his ancestors.

Our late governors, col. Sharpe and Sir Robert Eden, have their friends and connections, men of abilities and fortunes; they will combine, and draw into the opposition their relations and friends. The British merchants, and owners of iron-works, have many able advocates. Their factors, agents, and old correspondents, will, and ought to exert themselves. Gratitude for *former services*, and expectation of *future benefits*, will urge them, openly or secretly, to excite the people to join in the opposition. The absentees from this state, are connected with, or related to, men of the first abilities and influence, and some of them are connected with the first characters, in the first offices of our present government. I wish to inform the advisers of confiscation of the difficulties they have to encounter, that they may recede in time, and before it is too late. We have but a few of those, who are called disaffected, in this county, but the advocates for confiscation may add to the number of their opposers, all the nonjurors, tories and moderate men in the state, and many, many good whigs, as the Senator and myself, who, from principle, are averse to the measure. "It is not my wish or desire to excite the resentment of the public" against the popular leaders, (for some of whom I have a personal regard and respect) but if they will obstinately persist in their scheme of iniquity, and at any rate confiscate British property, in violation of our common law, our bill of rights and constitution, and law of nations, they must abide by the consequences. I would advise them to remember the sentiment of the judicious Roman, "that councils which at first view may appear *crafty* or *bold*, are often difficult in the execution, and disastrous in the end." I would exhort them to consider "the vicissitude of all human affairs, more especially in war, and that even our independence is not beyond the reach of adverse fortune, I would wish them to act with moderation, for fear an alteration in our affairs should make their own weapons recoil, and return upon themselves the usage they intend for others; I would earnestly recommend to them not to set an example to our enemies, which one time or other may be of dangerous consequence to themselves." In our hour of prosperity and insolence we may confiscate British property, but if the arms of Great-Britain should prevail, she may exceed our example, and forfeit life as well as property.

It was observed to me by one of my neighbours, that he was for confiscating British property, and particularly the proprietor's estate, for two reasons; 1st. To prevent the payment of the quit-rents, which in justice must still be paid (with the arrears) if the confiscation should not take place. 2d. To enable the assembly to comply with their promise of giving land, within the state, to our officers and soldiers. I shall make an observation or two on this subject, for his satisfaction, and that of others who may entertain the same opinion, and because such arguments of interest too often have weight with the common people. No argument of interest should induce us to infringe the rules of justice, or to make the least breach in our constitution; "the precedent may be of dangerous consequence." The quit-rents are of no great value; the *net* sum amounted in 1774 (I am told) to only £.7096 12 6 sterling. It is probable the proprietor, Mr. Harford, would accept, in lieu and satisfaction of his quit-rents, as much principal money as will produce the same yearly salary, at the interest of six per cent. this would be £.118,277 2 6 sterling. I would rather consent to pay my proportion of twice this sum, than do an act of injustice, or violate one article of our bill of rights. As to procuring lands for our officers and soldiers, in the state, (for sound policy forbids purchasing out of it) I suppose we should not want above 150,000 acres. I imagine we could buy of Mr. Harford his reserved and ungranted lands, on very reasonable terms.

I flatter myself the public are now able, from the labours of the Senator, and my feeble endeavours, to form some judgment of the rectitude of the motives which induced the popular leaders to urge the senate to the passage of the bill for confiscation, and of the true principles which induced that honourable body to give it their negative.

The Senator has been pleased to profess, and I as sincerely make the same declaration, that "the writer has no interests distinct from that of his country, the prosperity of which he has always endeavoured to promote to the best of his power and abilities, and wishes to see established, on the surest foundations, the principles of liberty, of justice, and of our constitution."

A PLEBEAN.

Prince-George's county, March 1, 1780.

Messrs. FARD. and SAM. GREEN,

Gentlemen,

INSERT this in your paper, and it will oblige A READER.

IT is justly alarming to see principles like the Senator's spread in a free country, when two years ago, if any man had talked in that manner, he would as soon have dared to put himself in the fire, or be tarred and feathered, especially a member of our assembly; Good God! What is this state come to, to be the subjects of Great-Britain? and we cannot take the property of our enemies to pay our taxes, when, if it was in their power they would take our lives. It is time for men to trim, and make fair weather on both sides; but I can say this, though I cannot write, I can think, and I have borne a firelock, and I can say it is damned toryism. The Plebean is the echo of his voice, and the hot bed of a furnace in all diabolical plots and conspiracies. God deliver this country from them.

I am,

Elk-Ridge, Your humble servant,

Feb. 27, 1780. A SENTRY.

For the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

I LIKE well what the Senator has spoken, who writes against the confiscation of British subjects, and in my judgment he is in the right. *John Calvin* was a great reformer, and subscribed the covenant, and an honest man, and if he has said it, it must have been of his opinion. King James was in the right to make his countrymen his own subjects, and if the union was to break, and the two crowns to become separate, it would be a great consolation, that the British subject would be under both kingdoms, and inherit each other. In America we are British subjects, especially born before the declaration of independence, and such of us as have not taken the oath, it is the reason; but our children may, for it would be against the conscience of the soul, and the holy law of God, to forswear the oath we have already taken to be true to our natural sovereign. But we may be the subjects of both countries; and it would be a great force-put on any who have come to my time of day, to cast off their native country; I would give the best coat on my back to see a termination of the dispute. The Plebean speaks like an honest man, and strengthens full well the reasons of the Senator, and makes appear what the other opens up, to great purpose; that it is against the civil law of nations to pay taxes with other mens property; and the bill of rights of this country, which is against the municipal law, by which, born before the declaration of independence, we are still the subjects of Britain, and under the realm of that kingdom.

A NATIVE OF NORTH-BRITAIN.

Feb. 28, 1780.

PHILADELPHIA, *Feb.* 24.

Last Tuesday afternoon arrived here captain Palmer, from France, by whom we have the French newspapers in December, but have only time to give the following.

LONDON, *Nov.* 25.

The earl of Hillsborough is appointed secretary of state, vice lord Weymouth.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman of character in l'Orient, to his friend in this town, dated Nov. 17th, 1779.

"The parliament of Ireland have acted with a degree of spirit, that surprises every body. On their meeting, instead of echoing back the lord lieutenant's speech, as is usual, they in their address to the king, demanded a free trade in every respect; and if this is refused them, there is no doubt but that they will declare themselves independent. Between 50 and 60,000 men, have already formed themselves into independent regiments, and the duke of Leinster is at the head of this association.

Extract of a letter from l'Orient, dated November 28, 1779.

"The Dutch seem at present entirely to disregard Great-Britain. Notwithstanding Sir Joseph Yorke's memorials, they allow captain Jones to refit his little squadron, and give him every assistance possible—nay, he is even allowed possession of a small fort in the Texel, in which he has put his sick and wounded seamen. His own marines constantly mount guard, and the continental colours are hoisted. The English do him the honour to attend with eight ships at the south and four at the north entrance of the Texel to watch his motions. In answer to Sir Joseph Yorke's memorial, and demand of the Seraphis and Countess of Scarborough, the states general have reply'd, that they were a neutral power, that their ports were free, and that they did not take upon them to judge of the validity of any prizes brought into their harbours. It is said that Sir Joseph, in his second memorial, has declared, that if the prizes are not given up, orders will be given to the captains of British men of war, to make reprisals. Captain Jones is expected round here very shortly, if the English do not watch him too closely.

"Affairs in Ireland are at last come to a crisis. The parliament, in their address to the king, were almost unanimous in demanding a free and unrestricted trade, and if this is not complied with, there is scarce a doubt but what they will declare themselves independent, and open their ports to all the world. Sir George Newenham declared in the house, that they were and ought to be independent, to all intents and purposes, and that the parliament of Great-Britain had nothing whatever to do with their trade. Between fifty and sixty thousand men have formed themselves into independent regiments in the different counties, mostly headed by gentlemen of rank and fortune; and the duke of Leinster commands the Dublin volunteers. We have not yet heard what reception the address is like to meet with; but every day we expect very interesting news from that quarter.

"News is this day arrived in town from London, that lord Sandwich has shot himself. People have various conjectures on the cause of this."

Extract of a letter from Nantes, Dec. 13, 1779.

"The count d'Estaing, with four ships of the line is arrived from America at Brest. The intended invasion of England is laid aside till spring, and the respective fleets are in port."

We have received an account of the following vessels being arrived in the river, viz. the brig Retaliation, captain Kollock, and the sloop Page, captain Palmer, from France; the brig Delaware, captain Collins, and schooner Revenge, captain Carson, from Hispaniola; a brig from Cadiz, and several others.

Captain Wilson, who left the Havannah the latter end of December, informs, that an expedition was going forward from thence, that a large body of men were embarked and hourly expected sailing orders. Their destination was said to be Pensacola. On the 7th ult. in lat. 31. 5. long. 65. he passed a large fleet standing S. E. with the wind at West; some of them gave him chace, but as he was to windward, he easily escaped. It is supposed this is the fleet which left New-York last Christmas.

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* *Several of my neighbours in Charles-county, when the confiscation of British property was first proposed, were violent in favour of the measure; but having received new light and information on the subject, they are now as violent against it. I flatter myself the same change of sentiment will take place in all the counties, when the arguments urged by the Senator, and enforced by me, are attentively considered and well understood.*

† *It is reported by a member of the house of delegates, that the president of the Senate told him, that he did not think it most proper for him to sit as judge in a case in which he acknowledged himself to be biassed and interested. There was a necessity for his voting last session, as there could not be a Senate without him.*

The brig———, Captain Prole, from Cadiz, for this port, being blown off the coaſt, is got into Martinico,

Captain Guſtavus Cunnyngham made his eſcape from Plymouth gaol the 5th of November, and arrived at Amſterdam about the 20th.

The ſchooner Polaſkie, captain Hartwell, from this port, for the Weſt-Indies, is taken and carried into Antigua.

The ſchooner Baltimore, captain Earle, from St. Euſtatia for Baltimore, being blown off this coaſt, is taken, and going into Antigua ran on the rocks, where ſhe was beat to pieces.

On the 15th and 16th of December, there was a violent gale of wind at Teneriff, in which ſeveral veſſels were drove aſhore, among them a ſchooner, captain Adams, from Edenton, North Carolina, which had brought to that iſland 17,000 ſtaves.

The brig Active, captain Meſnard, and the brig———, captain Stocker, both from St. Euſtatia; the brig———, captain Chatham, from Teneriff, are arrived in the Delaware with valuable cargoes of rum, ſalt, wine, dry goods, &c. and will be up, as ſoon as the river is clear of ice.

ANNAPOLIS, *March* 3.

The naval force ordered by the count d'Eſtaing to the bay of Chelapeak, has rendered important ſervice in keeping in awe the cruiſers at the mouth of our capes, and in preventing the plundering expeditions of the enemy, which, there is reaſon to believe, they had intended to the coaſt of Virginia during the winter. If they had attempted any thing of this kind, they would have found it more difficult to ſucceed, than in their late inroad to Suffolk. The following extract of a letter from York in Virginia is an evidence of the ſpirit of our countrymen, and the generoſity of our allies.

"On the information which had been received in Virginia, of the embarkation of a body of troops at New-York, and in the uncertainty where general Clinton might meditate a debarkation, Monſieur Vandreuil, commander of the Fendant of 74 guns, came to this city, and in conjunction with the chevalier d'Annours, conſul of France, entered into a conference with the governor on the means of defending this ſtate, and offered to contribute to that object all in his power. The governor obſerved to him, that the veſſel of our illuſtrious ally could not fail to be the victim of our inability to give aſſiſtance by ſea, ſince the Engliſh had at leaſt five veſſels in condition to attack us. He aſſured them of his concern for a danger ſo evident, and his deſire that the Fendant ſhould leave the bay, and go as high as poſſible up this river, where it could be in greater ſafety. The conſul and the commander of the French veſſel replied, that the king would not approve the conduct of an officer, who would leave voluntarily his allies in danger, and that his majeſty would not regret a veſſel which muſt coſt dear to the enemy, in being employed to defend this river at the point where it might be judged proper to draw it up. The governor yielded to an offer ſo generous; he choſe York-town to entrench, on account of a battery which runs out into the river. Monſieur de Vandrueil cauſed his ſhip to be carried higher up. His veſſel is ſtationed here. The Bold Rodrigus and another French merchant veſſel will be brought up for the ſame purpoſe; the tenders will be out in the middle of the bay, to give ready information of the appearance of the enemy. Every poſſible means are taken to ſecure this place, and it is to be hoped that ſucceſs will recompence the activity of our governor and the zeal of our allies, if it, as on this quarter that the tempeſt is to break."

Extract of a letter, dated St. Euſtatius, Feb 1.

"The European intelligence generally received here is conveyed through the Britiſh iſlands, and ſo frequently of little faith as not to merit or juſtify a communication. Two ſhips laſt week arrived at this port from Liverpoole, in eight weeks; at the time of their ſailing, the combined fleets, as well as that of England, were in port at ſingle anchor, which ſuggeſts a probability that they would ſoon put to ſea. The papers by theſe ſhips mention, that the parliament of Ireland was unanimous in declaring in favour of an unlimited and free trade. The firſt people in the kingdom are active in their endeavours to obtain this piece of utility, and even dependents on the crown join in the crowd; in all probability their demands will be granted. The Dutch are determined to obſerve a ſtrict neutrality towards the belligerent powers; a conformity to this will protect their neutrality, and from their general and free trade will be derived immence advantages to themſelves. Laſt night the Thorn, from Boſton, a ſhip of 18 guns, took a very valuable ſhip of 26 guns and 55 men, from New-York, laden principally with dry goods, 18 of the priſoners were put on board a long-boat and landed here this morning; the prize has ſailed for America. The Britiſh fleet, under the command of rear admiral B. Parker, is now at Antigua."

THE PLEBEAN, for particular reaſons, declines, at preſent, to make himſelf known, as requeſted.—The ſentiments of the Senator, on the conſtruction of Britiſh property, perfectly correſpond with the opinion of the Plebean, and ſhall have his utmoſt ſupport. The Plebean will, hereafter, eſteem himſelf honoured by the confidence of the Senator.

*** Several pieces are received, and will be publiſhed in the order they come to hand. Several to the Senator contains ſeveral exceptionable paſſages, and will be returned to the author. Vindex is likewiſe too perſonal, and cannot be publiſhed.*

WHEREAS, colonel Edward Sprigg, late of Prince-George's county, deceaſed, having, by his laſt will and teſtament, directed his executrix to ſell and diſpoſe of part of a tract of land, lying in Frederick county, called, Addition to Piles's Delight, before the firſt day of June after his deceaſe, for the payment of his debts; and whereas his executrix, through ſickneſs and inability of body, could not attend ſo as to make ſale thereof by the time limited in the ſaid will, ſhe hereby gives this public notice, that after a continuance of this advertiſement eight weeks in the public papers, ſhe intends to petition the general aſſembly for an act empowering her now to diſpoſe of the ſaid land, in order to enable her to make a final ſettlement of the eſtate of the ſaid teſtator.

1 8 w MARY PINDELL, executrix.

February 26, 1780.

THE ſubſcriber gives this public notice, that he will apply for letters of adminiſtration on his deceaſed father's eſtate, if his elder brothers, to whom he gives the preference, do not take them out within a month from this date.

3 w WILLIAM FRENCH.

Anne-Arundel county, February 29, 1780.

TAKEN up ſome time in January laſt, between the Bodkin and Mountain bars, three Hogſheads of tobacco, the hogſheads almoſt without neading, and part of the tobacco loſt. The owner, upon proving property and paying all charges, may have the tobacco by applying to John Tradgall, on the Seven Mountains, near the mouth of Magothy. Alſo at ſame time and near the ſame place, were taken up, two hogſheads, much hurt, and a great part of the tobacco loſt. The owner, upon proving property [illegible] may have the tobacco by applying to [illegible] on the Bodkin.

3 w

FOR SALE,

A NEGRO WENCH about thirty years of age; ſhe has been brought up to do either kitchen or plantation work, can ſpin very well, and is a very good plain cook. She will be ſold for caſh or tobacco, or any perſon having a likely young negro girl, about 10 or 12 years old, fit for houſe ſervice, may have her in exchange, the owner being in great want of ſuch a one. Enquire of the printers.

2

TAKEN from on board a pilot boat, which drove on ſhore on the 23d day of December, between Little and Great Choptank, ſundry articles, as ſails, cordage, butter, &c. with a cheſt ſome diſtance from her, having in it mens and womens apparel; the chief of her lading is tobacco, which cannot be ſaved. The owner or owners of ſaid boat are deſired to come and prove their property, and pay the ſubſcribers ſalvage agreeable to law and cuſtom in ſuch caſes.

w3 THOMAS LINTHICUM,
ABRAHAM LEE,
JOHN LEE.

A PETITION will be offered to the firſt ſeſſion of the general aſſembly after this notice ſhall have been publiſhed eight weeks, for an act admitting to record and giving effect from the date to a deed executed in Prince-George's county, by Mary Athey to John Webſter, for part of a tract of land called Athey's Choice.

4 8w JOHN WEBSTER.

Office for ſtating and ſettling the public accounts,
Annapolis, February 15, 1780.

THE commiſſioners having deemed the [illegible] for ſtating and ſettling the public accounts to be printed in the Maryland Gazette, think it neceſſary to give further notice, that they intend to continue ſetting every day in the week except Sundays excepted.

And as there appear many large ſums due to the public for money advanced upon contracts (and for other purpoſes) which have been in many inſtances diſregarded, the commiſſioners take this method to inform all perſons concerned, that they are determined to purſue the direction of the legiſlature, as far as in their power; that they ſhall require a ſpecific compliance with every public contract, as far as it is poſſible and equitable, and as they wiſh to prevent every unneceſſary expence and delay, ſo they hope that who are intereſted will ſee the propriety and abſolute neceſſity there is for them to render their accounts, and make ſatisfaction to the public as ſpeedily as poſſible. Thoſe clerks of counties who have omitted to tranſmit liſts of ordinary licences and fines, ſince the year 1775, are requeſted to forward them; the ſheriffs indebted on thoſe or any other accounts to perfect their payments; the ſupervisors of roads, who have had money advanced from the year 1774; the committees of the counties, and in general all perſons who have public money or effects unaccounted for, will be pleaſed to take notice and comply with the requiſitions of the legiſlature.

2 By order of the commiſſioners,
[illegible]HO. GASSAWAY, clerk.

TAKEN up as a ſtray by Joſeph Wilſon, living near the court-houſe in Montgomery county, Maryland, a ſmall bay MARE, about twelve and a half hands high, ten or eleven years old, branded on the off buttock ſomething like VS, had a bell on her, and was ſhod before when ſhe came. The ſaid mare was ſold by the ſubſcriber in March, 1778, to a certain Charles Pritchett, who has ſince ſwapt her away. The owner is deſired to prove property, pay charges, and take her away.

3 JOSEPH WILSON.

FIFTY POUNDS REWARD.

Head of Severn, Jan. 27, 1780.

STOLEN from the ſubſcriber, on Thurſday morning the 13th inſtant, a coat, jacket and breeches, a pair of mittens, a comb, an ax, ſome powder in an oſnabrig bag, and ſhot in a leather one. They were ſtolen by one PATRICK RILEY, an Iriſhman, about 5 feet 10 inches high, has yellow hair, a dark brown country cloth coat and breeches, and a whitiſh jacket, the breeches have a hole torn in the thigh; he has a caſt in his eyes, a full red face, and very large limbs. He has a paſs, which mentions his having loſt one from the governor of Virginia, which he loſt, and that he is a deſerter from the Britiſh army; he had with him a white bitch, with yellow ſpots, ſhort ears and tail. Whoever will ſecure the ſaid Riley ſo that he be brought to juſtice, ſhall receive one hundred dollars if taken in the county, and if out of the county the above reward, paid by

2ow 4 JOHN M'COY.

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS REWARD.

January 6, 1780.

RAN away from the ſubſcriber's plantation, about ſeven miles from Annapolis, on the main road leading from thence to Baltimore, on Monday the 21ſt day of December laſt, a likely young NEGRO man, named TOM, about five feet eight inches high, a ſtout well ſet fellow with thick lips, and his legs rather large; had on when he went away, a light coloured country made cloth jacket, with a red ſhort waiſtcoat under it, a pair of light coloured country cloth breeches, and alſo took with him a pair of leather breeches, dark coloured yarn ſtockings, and two pair of ſhoes. It is apprehended that he may have endeavoured to get over into Virginia, from whence he was brought when a ſmall boy and was then the property of John Morton Jordan, Eſq; deceaſed. Whoever will apprehend the ſaid negro, and bring him to the ſubſcriber, ſhall receive the above reward if taken in Maryland, and if out of Maryland a further reward of one hundred dollars, beſides all reaſonable charges, paid by

6 ELIZABETH SCOTT.

☞ CASH given for clean Linen and Cotton RAGS. 4

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